Examination stress

2050. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the examination stress continues to take a heavy toll of life of students, year after year, despite implementation of the recommendations of the Examination Reforms Commission;

(b) if so, the number of suicides committed by students in Delhi and other States so far during the examinations this year and the comparative figures for the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to ease such stress further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) (a) Yes, Sir. However, it is not only examination stress but various other contributory factors such as parental pressure increasing competition and fast changing social and economic conditions which at times compel students to depression.

(b) There are three suicide reports published in the newspapers wherein examination stress has been stated to be the cause of suicide by the students.

(c) The steps taken to reduce stress among students are as follows:

(i) Launching of 'helpline' one month before the commencement of examination also before the declaration of results.

(ii) Publication of sample question papers and marking schemes to familiarize students and teachers about the nature of questions and question papers

(iii) Elimination of overall aggregation of marks to reduce unhealthy competition among students.

(iv) Introduction of comprehensive and continuous school based evaluation.

(v) Providing facility of compartment examination in two subjects in class X and one subject in class XII.

(vi) Providing three chances of compartment examination for class X and XII.

(vii) Simplification of question papers in some of the important subjects to provide more internal choices of questions.

Shortage of schools and teachers

†2051. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of primary and secondary schools and teachers in the country; if so, the anticipated shortage in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Uttaranchal;

(b) whether Government have allotted any funds to these States to make up the shortage during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the extent of funds allotted, year-wise, to these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) Most of the primary and secondary schools are either set up and run by State Governments or aided by State Governments or are private schools. While no report has been received of shortage of such schools at the national level, no centralised data on the demand for schools or shortage, if any, is maintained in the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The opening/upgradation of schools is an ongoing activity funded through the Budgets and/or in partnership with private providers. Funds budgeted/released for this purpose, are also subject to availability of resources and competing priorities. The outlays for the education sector have been significantly stepped up and the Government is committed to increase the expenditure on education, in phases, so as to achieve a target of expenditure of 6% of GDP.

Residential schools in tribal belts

2052. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.